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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/637,067	08/11/2000	Hideshi Kawachi	992-124P	1370

2292 7590 10/18/2002

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EXAMINER

MULLIS, JEFFREY C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/637,067

Applicant(s)

KAWACHI ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey C. Mullis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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Applicants' reference to PCT Patents 0473176, and 0483696 have not been considered since they have not been submitted. Furthermore, it appears that the patent numbers referred to actually refer to European patents which have been considered.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilendra et al. (USP 5,128,410).

Ilendra et al. disclose a composition which may contain a blend of poly ethylene vinyl alcohol, HDPE and a methacrylic acid grafted polyethylene copolymer (claim 43). Applicants' LDPE and HDPE densities for use in the composition are disclosed at column 6 lines 63-66. The composition is said to have high impact strength at the paragraph bridging columns 1 and 2. Note the Examples as well as claim 10 of the patent which indicates that the ungrafted thermoplastic polyolefin is present at high levels such as 80%.

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Ilendra et al. disclose no specific examples of use of applicants' combination of the polyethylene resin having specific characteristics in combination with applicants' ethylene alphaolefin compound and polyethylene vinyl alcohol and does not disclose a composition which is a regrind of scraps as in dependent claims 15 and 16 and does not disclose applicants' specific melt flow rates.

It would have been obvious to a practitioner having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use applicants' combination of materials given that patentees specifically disclose that each of these materials may be used and are present in groups which form a combination as disclosed by patentees and in the expectation of adequate results absent any showing of surprising or unexpected results.

With regard to applicants' melt flow rates, it was widely known at the time of the invention that decreasing melt flow rate increased fabricability and decreased mechanical strength; therefore it would have been obvious to a practitioner having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use applicants' MFR in that it requires only routine experimentation to find the optimum or workable range of a result effective variable absent any showing of surprising or unexpected results.

With regard to applicants' use of a regrind, applicants' specification discloses that it was known at the time of the

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invention in the art to add regrind materials to macromolecular compositions and that the source of such regrind material could be scraps (which would have been understood by those skilled in the art to be readily available and cheap since they are waste materials).

Therefore it would have been obvious to a practitioner having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use regrind material in the composition of the primary reference in order to reduce cost absent any showing of surprising or unexpected results.

The non-statutory double patenting rejection, whether of the obviousness-type or non-obviousness-type, is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent. *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); and *In re Goodman*, 29 USPQ 2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b) and (c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a non-statutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.78(d).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 11-15 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,214,426. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably

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distinct from each other because all the patent claims recite that the composition of patent claim 7 is part of a multilayer article, the instant claims do not exclude present issue features such as presence of other layers or formation of the claimed composition of the instant application as a layer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey Mullis at telephone number (703) 308-2820.

J. Mullis:cdc

October 9, 2002

Jeffrey Mullis
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JM', is written over the typed name and title of the Primary Examiner.